



# Current FACts

FAC News to Use

January 22, 2015

## Spotlight:

### New Habits in the New Year?

*Text Limit App Keeps Drivers Safe*

While it's against the law to text and drive, most likely all of us have ignored that edict at one time or another. But hey, it's a new year, so maybe it's a good time to break a bad habit and make a new one.

And there's a helpful tool....for everyone, especially teen drivers. You can download the free [textlimit app](#) to keep all the drivers in your family safe. Use the code: NOTEXTKY to download the app.

Read on for how Bill Bell, director of the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety, and his family deals with electronic clutter and educating his kids on no texting while driving.



You must have a sense of humor to have four or more kids. This is why I can identify with the stand-up routine of Jim Gaffigan.

Basically, with four kids everything is amplified. Along with the obvious increase in noise, it also includes (but is not limited to) school fundraisers, sporting events, lunches, water consumption, homework, complaining, and

wireless device usage.

We have at least five rules concerning personal communication device usage and between our family of six we have eight gadgets - one iPad, three iPhones, a tablet, and three iPod Touches. Someone is on one of these from the time school is out until bedtime and sometimes, beyond. Thus, one of the newer rules is "before bed, all devices are left in the kitchen."

Fortunately and unfortunately, this is the world in which we live. The last three or four generations have had to deal with kids being glued to TVs. But, unless children are watching educational television there is not usually a redeeming value in that.

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## 2014 KECC Goal Exceeded

The **FINAL TALLY** just came in and the overall state government KECC goal was exceeded...

**Goal: \$1,209,837** **Raised: \$1,211,178**

What's really great is that the Finance Cabinet's final total raised was **\$121,710** and our goal was **\$120,000**. Thanks to all who gave time, talent and money to KECC!

## Did you know...

### Study finds a link between lower teen deaths and texting bans

A study published in the American Journal of Public Health finds a decrease of teen deaths in states with a texting ban.

Depending on the law, states can see a decrease of up to 11 percent.

### Parents may drive teens To distraction on the road

According to research by the American Psychological Association, parents play a direct role in distracted teen driving, with more than half of teens talking on cellphones with their mother or father while driving.

## Interested in Planting Your Own Commonwealth Garden?

First Lady, Governor's Office of Ag Policy joint initiative in 2nd year

Encouraging healthy eating and locally grown foods within their own community is the goal of the Commonwealth Garden Initiative. First Lady Jane Beshear and the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP) announced the availability of applications for the program.

"After a successful first round in 2014, I am excited to continue the Commonwealth Garden Initiative, which will encourage communities to cultivate and maintain their own gardens," said Mrs. Beshear. "By expanding the Governor's Garden Program to include this initiative, it has allowed us to continue the conversation about fresh produce, locally grown foods, healthy eating and active outdoor living."

Eligible applicants may include schools, organizations, associations, parks and others who would like to participate in this unique partnership opportunity. If selected, designees will receive seeds, transplants and one year of gardening consultation from GOAP on topics such as seasonal planting, cultivation, pest management and more.

The Commonwealth Garden designation is part of the Governor's Garden Initiative, which was launched by the First Lady in 2009 to encourage schools and other community organizations to cultivate and maintain their own gardens in an effort educate Kentuckians about the health and economic benefits of community gardening and utilizing locally grown foods.

Currently, there are six Governor's Gardens across Kentucky that will continue to serve as an educational tool for students and communities. They are located at Locust Trace AgriScience Farm in Lexington, Capitol Education Center in Frankfort, the Center for Courageous Kids in Scottsville, the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, the FFA Leadership Training Center in Hardinsburg and Morehead State University. To learn more about Commonwealth Garden guidelines and to download an application, please visit the Governor's Garden website at [www.governorsgarden.ky.gov](http://www.governorsgarden.ky.gov). Deadline for submission is Feb. 15, 2015.



No Text from Pg. 1

Now, with smart phones and tablets, kids have the "world" at their fingertips. Our children have actually used their devices for schoolwork, art projects, educational games, and simply finding answers ... to anything.

However, as a parent, you still have to fight for their attention. Sometimes that means confiscating the devices.

One rule we have yet to make is using these devices in the car while they are driving. With my oldest being 13, we have about three years to hammer home the idea that smart phones are to be used only for emergencies while driving, and only if the vehicle is stopped.

A tool the Bell family will be using is the [textlimit app](#). We will be able to keep tabs on everyone's phones and also track their speed with this mobile application. Right now, it is free to all Kentuckians - individuals and business owners - to track phone usage in the vehicles they own. Just use the NOTEXTKY code.

It's a device most will find beneficial as family members try to keep up with all the comings and goings of an active brood and at the same time keep them safe. It's just another tool this family will use and your family might find it helpful too.

## Special Election in Jefferson County Precinct A-128

A Special Election will be held in **Precinct A-128** in Jefferson County, KY on **February 3, 2015**.



If you are registered to vote in this precinct and reside in this county, you are entitled to vote in this election. You need to request leave (up to 4 hours) in advance..

Employees voting absentee may be granted this leave if a request is made in advance of the day they appear before the clerk to apply for the absentee ballot, except as noted below. KRS 118.035 states that any qualified voter who exercises their right to voting leave but fails to vote under circumstances that did not prevent them from voting may be subject to disciplinary action. An employee appointed to serve as an Election Officer may receive voting leave not to exceed a total of seven and one-half (7.5) hours (based on a 37.5 hour work week) or eight (8) hours (based on a 40 hour work week) for a designated election to attend training and for service as an Election Officer, provided that such leave is requested and approved in advance.

Check with your supervisor or the Division of HR if you have any questions.